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1899, pages 186-94; "Pioneers and Durham Boats on Fox River" in the volume for 1912, pages 180-270.

The History of Winnebago County (Chicago, 1908), edited by P. V. Lawson, contains several articles on the navigation of the Fox River. Longer descriptions which may be worth consulting are, Thomas L. McKenney, *Memoirs* (New York, 1846), 95-104; Mrs. Juliette A. Kinzie, *Wau Bun*.

We have a good deal of manuscript material on the Fox River improvement and other material on the early history of the Fox River valley. Should you find it practicable to pay a visit to Madison, we shall be glad to put it at your disposal.

NEGRO SLAVERY IN GRANT COUNTY

One of my former teachers is preparing a paper, to be read at the La Crosse Normal School next year, on the subject of "Slavery in Grant County." Can you help us out in this matter? Any suggestions or references on this subject will be very thankfully received.

T. EMERY BRAY, *Lancaster*,
Superintendent of Schools, Grant County

Your question concerning slavery in Grant County is a difficult one to answer; slaves were undoubtedly brought to Grant County, and kept there in servitude, but almost no printed record has been made of such episodes. The following suggestions are all we can offer without extended research.

The first operations in the Illinois-Wisconsin lead mining region under United States leases were conducted in 1822 by Colonel James Johnson, of Kentucky. He brought with him a few slaves to work the mines. Brief descriptions of these slaves may be found in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, VI, 280; XIII, 290-91; 331-33; XIV, 303. Johnson may have prospected some in the Wisconsin mining region, and probably had a personal servant with him. His operations were, however, short lived, and in all probability he took his slaves back with him to Kentucky.

Most of the southern families who settled in southwest Wisconsin brought personal or house servants with them. One of these was George Wallace Jones, whose father, John Rice Jones, was an advocate of extending slavery to Illinois. The younger Jones settled at Sinsinawa Mounds, and had a considerable establishment where

slaves were employed. See John C. Parish, *George Wallace Jones* (Iowa City, Iowa, 1912), 66. Jones was the first delegate to Congress from Wisconsin Territory, and was a well-known statesman of his time.

George W. Featherstonhaugh, an English geologist, journeyed through Wisconsin in 1837. In his book *A Canoe Voyage up the Minnaw Sotor* (London, 1847), II, 119, he speaks of seeing a negro, presumably a slave, at English Prairie, on Wisconsin River at a lead smelter's named Stevenson (probably Charles L. Stephenson, later receiver of the land office at Mineral Point).

One of the southern families in southwest Wisconsin was that of the Gratiots. Henry Gratiot is said to have settled in Wisconsin because of his opposition to the system of slavery (*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, X, 244). Such scruples did not animate all southern settlers in Wisconsin, however. John H. Rountree of Platteville was a Virginian and his first wife was a Miss Mitchell from the same state. Her family was prominent among the pioneers of Methodism in Wisconsin, and she had three brothers, John, James, and Frank Mitchell who were itinerant Methodist ministers. Of one of these the following account is given in A. W. Kellogg, *A Brief Historical Sketch of the First Methodist Church of Milwaukee* (Milwaukee, 1904), 8.

"In 1844, seventeen years before the secession in the nation, the Church was split in two on this question and there was no power of armed coercion to prevent. James Mitchell's wife's father, a slaveholder in Virginia, had made his daughter a wedding present of two slave girls, family servants in the home, and they followed the Mitchell family fortunes to the free territory of Illinois and Wisconsin. As the times grew hot and the lines tightly drawn, Conference called him to account for permitting his wife to hold her servants and refusing to emancipate them, and at one session, after a hot controversy, suspended him, and at the next, I think, expelled him, or he withdrew and joined the Church South in Arkansas. The last I heard of him he was a colonel in the rebel army in Missouri, whose soldiers, having made prisoner a Unionist, son of Father Ebenezer Washburn, one of the pioneer heroes of New York and New England Methodism, whom Mitchell had known in Wisconsin, he used his

power to free the son. 'One touch of kindly nature makes the whole world kin,' and we forget his foibles for the grand man we first knew."

ELEAZER WILLIAMS AND THE ROMANCE OF THE LOST DAUPHIN

In volume six of the *Collections* of your Society in a paper read March 10, 1870, by Mr. John Smith, it is stated that the Eleazer Williams-Dauphin Claim was based entirely upon a romance written for its author's own amusement, by a Col. H. E. Eastman, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The object of this letter is to ask if a copy of that romance is among the papers filed in your Society's *Collections*, or, if not, where a copy can be procured or inspected.

APPLETON MORGAN,
New York City

I regret that we are not able to find a copy of Colonel Eastman's romance which is said to have inspired Eleazer Williams to assume the rôle of the lost Dauphin, nor do we know where you would be able to find a copy. We have none in our reference library, nor in manuscript form, in our manuscript collection. Application might be made to the descendants or representatives of Colonel Eastman.

The Society is in possession of the private papers of Eleazer Williams which consist of his letters, diary, notes, sermons, Indian vocabularies, and other Indian manuscripts. Filed with these papers are General A. G. Ellis' recollections of Williams and a letter from Henry S. Baird enclosing Williams' application for admission into the Masonic Lodge at Green Bay. General Ellis and Mr. Baird are quoted by John Y. Smith in his article in *Wisconsin Historical Collections* VI, 308-42.

EARLY DAYS AT FORT MADISON, IOWA

During my three and a half years' absence from home I naturally got 'way behind in reading the publications of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and am only now getting caught up. In the *Proceedings* for 1912, page 144 in the paper on "The Capture of Mackinac in 1812" by Louise Phelps Kellogg, it is stated that the attack on Fort Madison was repulsed, and the impression is left that the Indians were not successful. My understanding of the case is that the garrison only held out for a short time and then escaped at night through a tunnel from fort to river—a very short distance, as the fort stood on the bank of the river—to their boats,